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## BOOK REVIEWS

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THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS LAW, Annotated by Joseph Doddridge Brannon, Professor of Law Emeritus, in Harvard University. Third Edition. The W. H. Anderson Company, Cincinnati, 1920, pp. lxvi, 622.

That this is the third edition of this compilation, indicates a favorable reception by law book buyers. In this case the demand should not be confined to lawyers, for the book would be of particular value to bankers and others of the lay world who have to deal with commercial paper. And for such readers, who seek practical information as to the characteristics and qualities of particular instruments as affected by the Uniform Negotiable Instruments Act, it must be an extremely useful book. Even the lawyer, who will go eventually to his digests, can find the preliminary information he needs compiled herein. Its small size, however, precludes a very extended collection of authority on any one subject. The half page, for instance, of decisions bearing upon § 2, 1 "a sum certain \* \* \* although \* \* \* with interest" can not compare with the eight pages of annotation in 2 A. L. R. 135, not to mention the digests.

The compilation is in no sense a text-book and would not serve as such. In due time our law of negotiable instruments will consist, as does the law of patents, of the statute as a base and a full and complete structure of interpretation and application thereof by the courts. At present, however, that part by which the future is to be known is most of it still antecedent to the adoption of the Uniform Act. There can be no sound instruction in the law of bills and notes which does not include a presentation and analysis of the common law to an extent not even suggested in Mr. Brannon's annotations. But the purpose evidently intended by the editor is well accomplished. Owing to its cross reference of sections it is a convenient copy of the Act for use in any state and its notation of differences in wording of the Act in various states makes it a valuable time saver for any one concerned with the law in other jurisdictions. The retention in this edition of the controversial discussion between Professor Ames and Judge Brewster might well have been discarded in favor of some of the more recent comments which have been published. The annotations themselves, however, and the occasional discussion such as that under § 20—"signing as agent"—are thoroughly satisfying in the clarity and accuracy with which they are presented.

JOHN B. WAITE.

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CASES ON PROPERTY (Rights in Land) with an INTRODUCTION TO THE LAW OF REAL PROPERTY. By Harry A. Bigelow of the Law School of the University of Chicago. St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1919, pp. vii, 88; xviii, 741.

This book appears as volume two of the CASES ON PROPERTY in the AMERICAN CASEBOOK SERIES, and completes the treatment of property therein. With